

CONFUSION SALVAGE TIMBER SALE

December 18, 2006 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Clearwater Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 5 air miles southwest of Seeley Lake, Montana.
- Missoula County – Sections 30 and 32, T16N, R15W.
- 100% MSU Income (ACB).

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 3,425 tons (588 MBF) of sawlogs with an estimated minimum value of \$64,052.00.
- Much of the lodgepole pine in the area has been beetle killed and a majority of the remaining green lodgepole is infected.
- In addition to the stumpage value, a fee of \$2.79/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- The removal of approximately 318 tons of non-sawlog material is required as a part of this sale
- 5.83 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale consists of 8 harvest units totaling 96 acres.
- Harvest prescriptions target beetle killed and beetle infested trees and trees at risk of insect attack. All lodgepole pine would be removed along with minor amounts of other species.
- This sale is a fuels reduction and timber salvage project around numerous cabin sites along the shores of Placid Lake near Seeley Lake, MT. Dead and dying trees would be removed to reduce fire danger and salvage the wood while still commercially viable.
- Two units on this sale, totaling 36 acres, are currently classified as old growth under the *Green et al* definition. Harvest in these units would be restricted to lodgepole pine while Douglas-fir and larch constitute the old growth component. These stands would still meet the *Green et al* definition of old growth after harvest.

Harvest System:

- 100% tractor

Road Construction:

- Approximately 1.35 miles of existing road would be improved and reconstructed to meet current BMPs.

Public Involvement & Issues:

- DNRC mailed scoping letters on August 3, 2005 to adjacent landowners, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, MT FWP, and known interested parties and a notice was posted at the Seeley Lake post office. Public involvement was also solicited through notices published in the *Missoulian*. The project's lead forester attended a meeting of local cabin site owners to inform them of the proposed project on August 19, 2006. DNRC specialists were also consulted. Comments were received from the MT FWP, the Harbin family, and the Kinsey

family. The Harbin and Kinsey families live adjacent to the project area and they expressed full support for this sale.

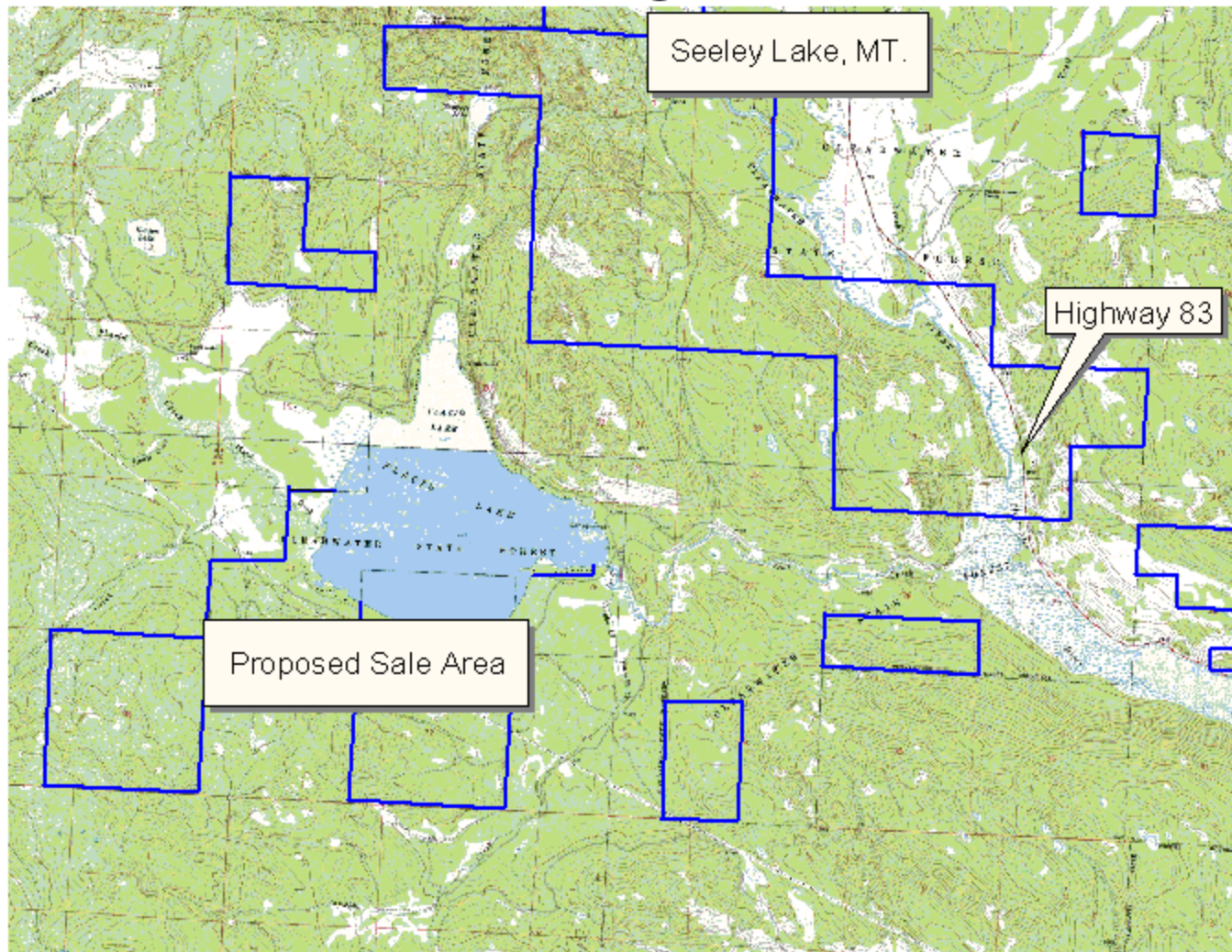
Issues and Mitigations:

- **Wildlife** – The proposed salvage prescriptions are designed to limit impacts to wildlife. Visual screening utilizing topography and post-harvest vegetation would be utilized to address wildlife concerns. An osprey nest within section 32 is protected within the contract by restricting harvest and log hauling periods.
- **Cabin Sites** – This sale is in an area containing many DNRC cabin sites and private holdings along the south shore of Placid Lake. It is an area of high recreational and residential use. Safety concerns are mitigated by requiring a lower speed limit (15 mph) for all vehicles coming into and leaving this sale. Concerns regarding falling snags and wildfire fuels are expected to decrease upon completion of this project.
- **Streams** – Existing roads associated with the sale would be upgraded to meet current BMP's. Over the long-term, this would reduce sediment entering into streams and Placid Lake. An overflow culvert would be installed to reduce an issue of flood waters washing down a road rather than staying in the stream channel.
- **Noxious Weeds** – This project will continue to use an Integrated Weed Management system to reduce noxious weeds in the area. A licensed individual would do weed spraying along roads in the project area after the harvest and hauling is completed.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Confusion Salvage Timber Sale.

Confusion Salvage Vicinity Map

Attachment A-1



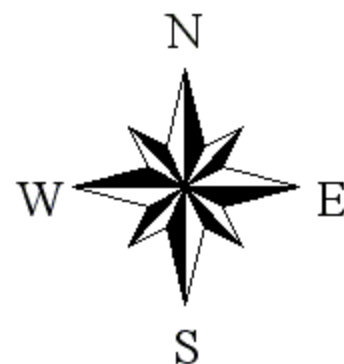
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CVN 10-5-06

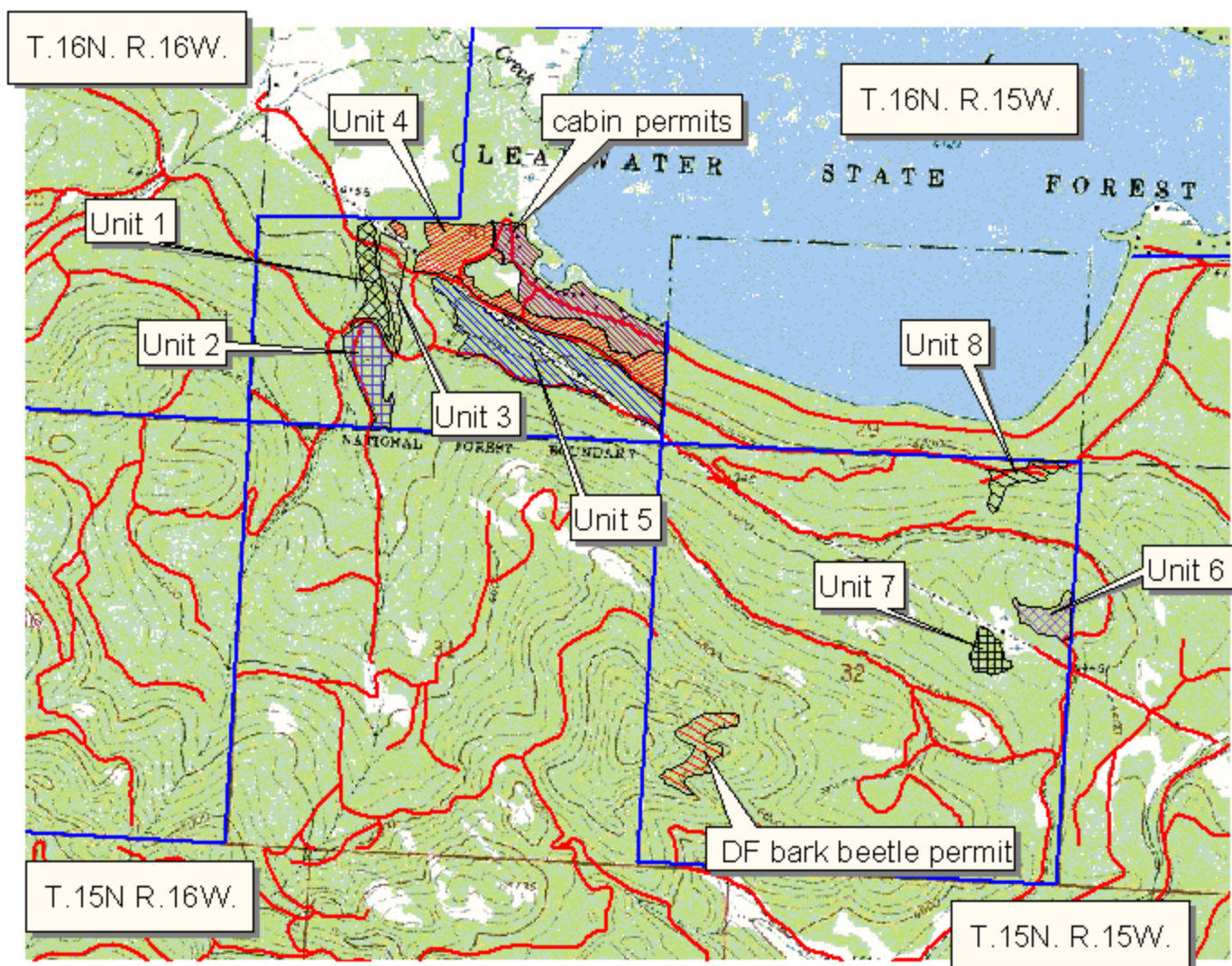
LEGEND



DNRC Ownership



Confusion Salvage



0.7 0 0.7 1.4 Miles

CVN 10-11-06

LEGEND

	Unit 1		Unit 7
	Unit 2		Unit 8
	Unit 3		DF bark beetle permit
	Unit 4		Cabin site permits
	Unit 5		DNRC ownership
	Unit 6		Roads

